

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Ibom Golf Club

Le Meridien Ibom Hotel & Golf Resort, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State

www.lemeridienibom.com

Dear Member,

I hope by the time you receive this newsletter you will have already registered as a player in our upcoming LM Open which starts on the 3rd of December 2016.

This much loved event is as much a festival of golf as a 36 hole golf tournament as we will be welcoming back many old friends to the resort, along with we hope a few new ones.

There is no denying that it has been a challenge to put on this year's event given the economic situation in the country but it was always the wish of the resort's GM, Marc Devroye to if possible maintain the legacy of the LM Open by playing on in 2016 against all the odds.

This has only been possible through the support of our sponsors and some careful management on our part, which we believe will make this year's event once again both an enjoyable weekend away playing golf at Ibom, and well worth winning in terms of the prizes on offer.

I am also delighted to announce that we have now gone past my target for membership for 2016 of **125** members.

When I arrived we had only 78 players on our membership list, so this is a significant increase in numbers which is due in no small part to the efforts of our captain, **Usenobong Akpabio** and our Head professional **Emmanuel Achayi** who worked very closely together to first identify new players, and then in Emmanuel's case work with them to get them to the point where golf might become their new love.

It has also been encouraging to see how the new category of **Country Membership** allowed for the return or retention of so many people who wished to keep their links with either Ibom GC or the state of Akwa Ibom. I hope going into 2017 that we can again increase our numbers to 150 players by the year end, but given the current outlook financially, holding on to the gains of this year might well be the best that we might hope for.

Roger Yates

Golf Club Manager

Upcoming Events

LM Open – Saturday 3rd December 2016

Members Day Competition – 11th December 2016

Members' Birthday Kitty – Saturday 31st December

Manager's Comments

I'd like to remind members of the changes to the membership fees for 2017 that will come into effect on January 1st 2017.

| Membership Fees 2017 | Early Payment - End of January | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| | NGN | NGN |
| Full Membership | 110,000 | 90,000 |
| Country Membership | 70,000 | 65,000 |
| Family Membership | 180,000 | 170,000 |
| Junior Membership | 30,000 | 25,000 |

It helps the financial planning for the club if by the end of January we can have 95% of our membership fees paid, so in an effort to encourage members, we have decided to significantly reduce the yearly fees for those members that comply.

From February 1st the full fees will apply to everyone and it is anticipated that by March 1st all those members with unpaid fees will undergo a membership re-classification. So in order to avoid any potential future misunderstandings please be aware that in my eyes:-

- *a member of Ibom GC is only somebody who has paid their annual subscription for the calendar year in which they wish to play*
- *anybody else who once might have been a fee paying member is considered either - a **Suspended or a Past member** – and as such has no rights to any of the current*



The LM Open 2016

Despite the challenging economic conditions that engulf Nigeria at present the popular LM Open will once again be played over the weekend of December – 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Whilst we will retain much of the original format of the event, once again we will acknowledge the huge level of support our sponsors offer us by featuring a Sponsor's Trophy within the tournament format.

A change this year is the decision to have the overall prize go to the player with the lowest net score, in the past it has always been given to the lowest gross score, but after listening to player's last year it was felt that this change was needed if we were to retain a larger appeal to our players.

The event this year is once again an invitational event with a restricted field of only 70 players, which means as you read this, if you have not entered and paid, you will need to move very quickly if you are to be successful in joining the field for 2016.

All entries are being handled by Maureen – Maureen-Ion.Maduka@lemeridien.com – so be sure to call today.

The Basil Monwe Farewell Kitty

The LM Open will see Basil Monwe make his last competitive appearance in 2016 at Ibom as he makes the long journey back to his family in Canada after the event.

We sincerely hope that this will not be his final trip around the Ibom links as he has been a great supporter of the club and a truly wonderful member. We will certainly miss his dulcet tones around the course as he shouted at a misbehaving ball to move back on line, or in attempting to “better rain” a caddy, but more than that we will without doubt miss his engaging presence around the terrace.

It was tremendous that so many members came along to support Basil at his farewell kitty on the 19th November, and he was able to hear from them directly how much the members thought of him. The terrace was filled with compliments and an out pouring of sorrow as member after member rose to their feet to wish him well in his next endeavor.

I would personally on behalf of the golf team like to wish Basil a safe journey and a happy return to Ibom in what we all hope will be the very shortest of times.

The Unity Cup – an Inter State 4 Club Team Invitational Tournament

It is hoped that we will be able to add an exciting new event to the 2017 Golf Schedule with the launch of an inter-state club team match play event that will be played at Le Meridien Ibom Hotel & Golf Resort over a 4 day period in early 2017.

Proposed Format

- Each invited club will compete against each other on an inter-club basis once – there will be 24 players per side competing on a match play basis in pairs (4 Ball Better Ball – off handicap)
- The winners of each individual game in the match will score 2 points for their team – 1 point for a half game
- The club team with the most points will be declared the winner of that inter-club match
- The club team that wins the most inter-club matches will be declared the winner of the tournament
- In the event of a tie between clubs – the club with the most individual points scored in the tournament throughout all three inter-club matches will be declared the winner.
- In the event of a tie on points scored the clubs will nominate two players to play on behalf of their team in a sudden death play-off.

Golf Rules

Understanding the rules on GUR might be helpful if you are playing in the LM Open as we may well have some areas marked as such for the event.



We hope after watching the clip you will know exactly what to do if your ball finishes on an area marked as GUR.

